

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF  
CULTURAL AFFAIRS

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STATE HISTORICAL  
SOCIETY OF IOWA

# IOWA HISTORIAN

NEWSLETTER OF THE STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF IOWA

## Celebrate Iowa History Month!



As we commemorate **Iowa's 175th anniversary** this year, we're taking a deeper dive into the state's past during **Iowa History Month**. The celebration begins today with an **official proclamation** from Gov. Kim Reynolds, who pays tribute to key milestones dating back to Iowa's entry into the Union in 1846. (Watch the **video**.)

The month-long lineup of **events and activities** includes a new museum exhibition, a statewide book club, at-home activities for children and families, an array of online presentations and much more.

Here are some ways you can join the celebration this month:



**The Iowa's People & Places" exhibition** opens March 5, at the State Historical Museum of Iowa and explores more than 13,000 years of history with artifacts from across the state. American Indian settlements, court rulings, legislation, immigration and elections set the course for Iowa and continue to affect Iowans today.



The exhibition's statewide mix of artifacts represents Iowa's cultural diversity, including stone tools made by some of Iowa's earliest inhabitants, handcrafted Meskwaki beadwork, an embroidered story cloth made by a Hmong immigrant, and several items from the life and high-flying career of astronaut Peggy Whitson.

*Pictured, above: A Meskwaki pictograph, circa 1830, an honor roll of 150 Black servicemen who served in World War I.*

**Preview:** Tune in online at noon on Tuesday, March 2, for an [exhibition preview](#) guided by State Curator Leo Landis. Registration is free but required.

### MARCH 2: REGISTER

**Tune in for more "Iowa History 101"** online programs at noon each Tuesday and Thursday to learn about notable names and stories from the past, including Inkipaduta, Emir Abd el-Kader, Donna Reed and others.

[SEE THE FULL LINEUP](#)



**7 p.m. March 11:** Join the inaugural session of the online [Iowa History Book Club](#), when *Annals of Iowa* editor Andrew Klumpp leads a discussion of the late Dorothy Schwieder's classic "Iowa: The Middle Land." Meetings are scheduled quarterly throughout the year.

**Noon, March 17:** Tune in to an ["Iowa Stories"](#) presentation from the State Historical Society of Iowa Research Center in Iowa City, featuring ["The Cherry Sisters: The Best Worst Act in the World."](#) Look for more programs scheduled throughout the year.

## MARCH 11: REGISTER

## MARCH 17: REGISTER



Join us for "**100 Years of Donna Reed**," on March 25, when Reed's daughter, Mary Owen of Iowa City, will share rarely seen family photos from her mother's early days in Denison. Reed's career includes her Academy Award-winning performance in "From Her to Eternity" (1953) and "The Donna Reed Show" (1958-1966), for which she won a Golden Globe and four Emmy Award nominations. She's best known, of course, as Mary Bailey in "It's a Wonderful Life" (1946), which marks its 75th anniversary this year.

## MARCH 25: REGISTER

## Throughout the month . . .

- **Join Goldie's Kids Club.** Online programs and at-home activities abound for children and families who want to learn more about Iowa's colorful past. New content is posted online every month, including Storytime and Innovative Iowans activities focusing on the state symbols, and a **video playlist** children of all ages can enjoy.
- **Schedule an Iowa trivia program** via Zoom for your organization's next meeting. State Historical Society of Iowa special projects and outreach coordinator (and two-time All-Iowa Trivia Bee champion!) Jess Rundlett would be happy to lead a 30-minute trivia for your group, free of charge. You can contact her at **jessica.rundlett@iowa.gov**.
- **Sport a T-shirt** that says "Iowa: History Happens Here." They're for sale at **Raygun in Des Moines** and online, starting March 1, and a portion of the proceeds will benefit the Iowa Historical Foundation.



LEARN MORE ABOUT IOWA HISTORY MONTH PROGRAMS



Throughout the year . . .



Look for more ways to mark [Iowa's 175th Anniversary](#) by subscribing to [The Annals of Iowa](#), reading the [Iowa History blog](#) or even playing BINGO! (You can pick up a card at the State Historical Museum of Iowa or [download one at home](#).)

*Pictured: Members of the Rivera and Ayala families explored north central Iowa in a Chevrolet in the 1930s.*

[LEARN MORE](#)

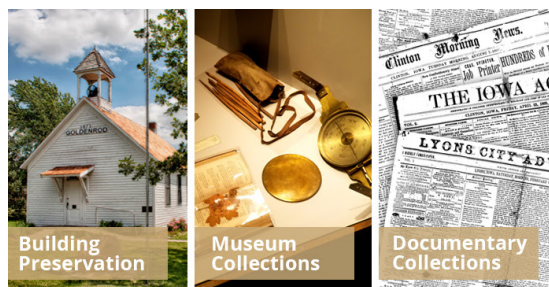
## Grants for Historic Preservation, Education and Research

Sharpen your grant-writing skills: We're now accepting grant applications for the upcoming fiscal year, which begins July 1.

### Historical Resource Development Program

This program provides up to \$50,000 for the preservation, conservation and interpretation of history by encouraging individuals and organizations to educate the public about historical resources, including historic buildings, museum collections and documentary materials.

**Deadline: May 3.**



[LEARN MORE AND APPLY](#)

### Country School Grant

The Country School grant provides up to \$5,000 for the preservation and maintenance of Iowa's one- and two-room country schools. The funds also may be used for interpreting the history of country schools or

for educational activities taking place in a country school.

**Deadline: May 3.**



LEARN MORE AND APPLY

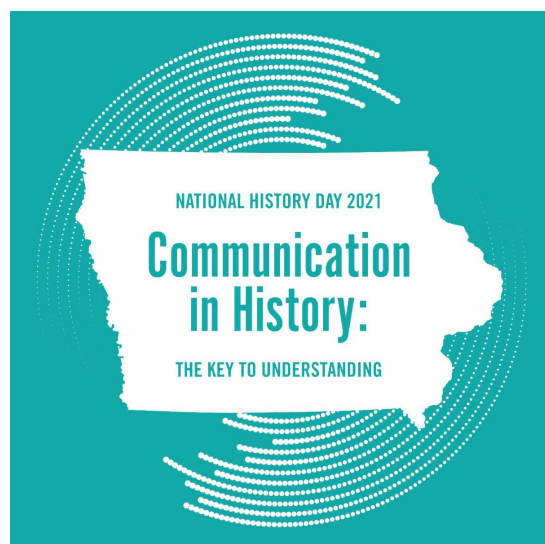
### Research Grant for Authors

The Research Grant for Authors supports historical research and interpretive writing on topics related to Iowa history. Proposals that pursue neglected topics or new approaches to more familiar topics will receive preference. Grant recipients will be expected to produce a manuscript to be considered for publication by *The Annals of Iowa*.

**Deadline: April 15.**



LEARN MORE AND APPLY



SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER!

### Judges Needed for National History Day

Virtual volunteers needed! We're looking for judges to evaluate student projects for the 2021 **National History Day in Iowa** virtual contest season.

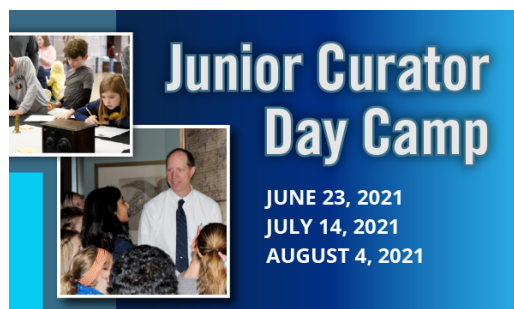
Haven't volunteered before? No problem! Judges work in teams and receive online training before the contest. **Judges can sign up** and select a district contest that works best for their schedule. If you have questions, please contact [vania.boland@iowa.gov](mailto:vania.boland@iowa.gov).

**Register for Summer Programs Now**



### Young Writers' Workshop

The **Young Writers' Workshop** returns this summer for a week of exciting adventure. Students entering grades 7-12 will work with a nationally known young adult author to hone and refine their writing skills using artifacts, exercises, research and storytelling tips. The students will end the week by giving a performance of their stories. The five-day workshop is set for **June 14-18**.



### Junior Curator Day Camp

Young historians in grades 4-6 can learn what it takes to run a museum during the **Junior Curator Day Camp**. They'll explore the role of curators, conservators and exhibition designers by investigating artifacts, exploring the State Historical Museum of Iowa's collection and learning about Iowa history. Students also will design their own exhibit. The single-day camps are offered **June 23**, **July 14** or **Aug. 4**.

REGISTER NOW!

## 2021 Preservation at Its Best Awards

Each year, Preservation Iowa seeks to honor individuals, organizations, projects and programs whose work demonstrates a commitment to excellence in historic preservation. In doing so, the organization hopes to inspire others to take action to preserve, protect and promote historic resources.



This year's Preservation at its Best project awards will be presented at the 2021 Preserve Iowa Summit, to be held virtually June 3-5. Questions may be directed to Awards Ceremony Coordinator Bruce Perry at [pib@preservationiowa.org](mailto:pib@preservationiowa.org). **Nomination by email deadline: April 15.**

LEARN MORE

## Programs & Events

Extended to May 9: **Iowa Culture Mobile app featured Tour: 20 Artists, 20 Parks**

March 2: **"Iowa History 101: Stories from the Iowa's People and Places Exhibit"**

March 5: **Exhibit opening: "Iowa's People and Places"**  
March 6: **"History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault"**  
March 11: **Iowa History Book Club**  
March 17: **"Iowa Stories: The Cherry Sisters: The Best Worst Act in the World"**  
March 25: **"Iowa History 101: 100 Years of Donna Reed"**  
April 3: **"History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault"**  
May 1: **"History Mystery: Live from the Museum Vault"**  
June 14-18: **Young Writers' Workshop**  
June 23: **Junior Curator Day Camp**  
July 14: **Junior Curator Day Camp**  
Aug. 4: **Junior Curator Day Camp**

## Grants & Nominations

March 1: **State Historical Society of Iowa Board of Trustees Nominations**  
March 1: **Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund for Historic Interiors**  
March 1: **Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation**  
March 4: **Iowa Rural Heritage Revitalization Grant Review**  
March 15: **National Fund for Sacred Places**  
April 15: **Research Grant for Authors**  
May 3: **Historical Resource Development Grant**  
May 3: **Country School Grant**

*Please check our online calendar for more events and opportunities across the state.*

VISIT OUR CALENDAR

BECOME A MEMBER

VOLUNTEER



State Historical Society of Iowa | [iowaculture.gov/history](https://iowaculture.gov/history)